

GLBT Commission Meeting - Sept 18, 2014

Commissioners Present: (not a quorum): John Gintell (chairing), Gregory Grays-Thomas, Kristina Mastropasqua, Rachel Oppenheimer, Anna Weick, Mal Malme, Aren Stone, Neil Scannell, Bill Barnert

Commissioners Absent: (excused): –Lesley Phillips, Kara Smith, Steven Lee, Mike McKenna, Maggie Giles, Neil MacInnes-Barker, Kevin Shpritzer, Caitlin Drechsler, Bob Parlin, Paul Miller

Guests:

- Police Supt. Chris Burke
- Russ Wolff (Police Partnership study at Northeastern)
- Pam Klein, of the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program

Agenda approved.

July Minutes approved.

Police Report

- The Cambridge Police Department is part of an Amicus Brief including law enforcement officers in the appeals processes of several same-sex marriage cases in the 7th District Court. This brief argues that the denial of same-sex marriage negatively affects law enforcement personnel. Chris Burke was asked by Mary Bonauto of Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders to join the suit.
Deputy City Manager Lisa Peterson has asked Chris Burke to assist in fulfilling the Commission's request that all city employees be trained in LGBTQ cultural competence. Gay Officers Action League-New England will help to provide the training. Chris will keep us updated on the progress and how the Commission can help to develop the training.
- G.O.A.L. / New England is providing expertise & trainers for the training. (No date yet.)
- They would like the Commission to help develop training

Police Partnership study:

- Russ Wolff is conducting a study on police-community partnerships, including partnerships with the LGBTQ community. He is in the process of interviewing Commission members.

Kate Thomas Remembrance:

- Aren & Mal said some wonderful things about the late Kate Thomas, and how important the award we gave her was to her & to her family. If you have photos of Kate, send them to Aren to send to Kate's partner Tina. Neil S. went to the LGBT Senior Dinner, and saw how much Kate meant to the people there. Neil offered to step in & coordinate the dinner if needed, as he feels it is important that they continue. The dinner will be re-named "Kate's Cafe" in her honor. "Kate will be missed in many different ways." - John

Youth and Schools:

- Members of the Youth Subcommittee have met with some area Gay Straight Alliances (GSAs) and want to continue this work. We would like to organize a meeting of the adult GSA leaders, and perhaps help them to organize a meeting of the students.
- Aren made a proposal for a protocol for working with youth groups.
 1. At least two Commissioners meet with GSAs.
 2. Commissioners don't ask for or give personal contact information to any youth. They can be given the Commission email address. All contact between Commissioners and youth or youth groups is through contact with the adult leaders.
 3. Commissioners never contact or connect with youth on social media, except the Commission's official website and Facebook page.
- We decided to bring this proposal forward to the October meeting for approval.
- We have money in the budget for an intern for the Spring on the Youth After School Activities Assessment.

Planned Events:

- **OctoberFest** - Sun, Oct 12 – Kevin coordinating table staff (hopefully two at all times)
- **Stories from the B-Side: Bisexual Voices**
(An Evening of Diverse Bisexual Viewpoints). Thurs, Oct 16

- Commissioners can help by spreading the word & soliciting food donations
- Co-sponsors of this event are: The Cambridge GLBT Commission, SpeakOUT Boston, the Bisexual Resource Center, and the Cambridge Public Library.
- At the event planning committee meeting of Sept. 4, it was decided that:
 - The title is now “*Stories from the B-Side: Bisexual Voices*”
 - Commissioner Caitlin Drechsler will introduce the event.
 - Ellyn will speak first, and after all speakers, moderate the Q&A.
 - The other panelists will include Charles Strauss, Commissioner Maggie Giles, and one or two others (at least one person of color under 30, and hopefully both someone in their 20's and someone in their teens. Ellyn will coordinate panelists).
 - The event will follow the original schedule:
 - Thursday, October 16, Cambridge Public Library Lecture Hall & Community Room
 - 6-6:30 getting people in
 - 6:30 – 8:00 Presentation & Q&A
 - 8:00 – 8:30 Networking & sign-ups, possibly with food
- A/I Bill: Order 250 postcards to be printed from Classic Graphics in Central Square & charged to the Commission (may need Aren's name)
- A/I Bill: Send postcard to all commissioners as PDF.
- A/I Bill: Arrange short program to hand out with participants & organization descriptions.

Transgender Homeless Shelter Best Practice Training

Rachel and Gregory met with the Human Rights Commission and they agreed to fund the trainings for shelter staff. They have asked us to coordinate the trainings and be the liaisons to the shelters. There is also an interest in extending the training to shelter guests. Greg and Rachel will be meeting with staff of the Department of Human Services to get their input on this project. They asked for more Commissioners to help and Aren volunteered. There is still room for more Commissioners to join.

Next step: Finding trainers and planning the trainings. Meeting guest Pamela Klein, a nurse at Boston Health Care for the Homeless, offered her help.

Followup - topics from last meeting's minutes and other sources:

- Michelle Drolsbaugh from Cambridge Family & Children's Service would like to attend one of our meetings & discuss LGBT youth in foster care & look into ways we could partner together. She has been invited to come to the October meeting.
- We want to invite Sarah Boyer, of the Cambridge Historical Commission, to one of our meetings.
- Employees Standards of Conduct – We still want to have the wording changed to include more specific text on bullying & anti-LGBT language. It's kind of on hold, so we need to make a plan to move it forward.
- John will contact Leland Cheung to talk about his proposal to change language in city ordinances to include “gender identity and expression”. We plan on making similar changes to our website and would like the city to do the same in their Employees Standards of Conduct, as well as including stronger anti-bullying language and consequences. We will make a plan to move these changes forward.
- We also want to update our own web-site to add "gender identity and expression"

Seniors:

- Intern to be hired for the Housing/Healthcare Assessment - job is posted, and so far there have been eleven applications.
- Aren proposed a committee of Commissioners to work with the intern(s). [John wants to be on it.]
- We would like to partner with the Council on Aging and the Senior Center again to have more events for LGBTQ seniors.

Communications

- Newsletter (name, schedule)
We would like to send out periodic Commission updates to our email list. Mike is working on getting us an email address from the city. Mike & Bill are coordinating on updating our own list from recent events.
- The Communications Committee should meet soon after the Bisexuality event.
- Proposal: Send a short readable summary of the minutes each month to the list. Can also use resources like Anna's

resource page for CCTV.

- Website: For various reasons it is difficult for us to maintain. The city is in the middle of a process to get it upgraded/simplified. Right now, we still have to request changes, and that works, but is limited.

National Transgender Day of Remembrance event

- The annual Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) event, usually held in Boston, will be held in Cambridge this year on Nov. 23rd (most likely) at the University Lutheran Church in Harvard Square.
- Pam Klein (Boston Healthcare for the Homeless) explained the event and asked if we would like to co-sponsor. Commission members were enthusiastic and will make a formal decision at our next meeting.
- The program includes speakers, an outdoor procession and ceremony, and a reception.
- We offered to help publicize this by distributing information at Oktoberfest and *Stories From the B-Side*.
- We will get more information from the TDOR organizing committee about how we can contribute and will discuss it at our next meeting. John will contact the City Manager's office to get more clarity about what we are allowed to contribute.

Public Comment/Announcements/Adjournment

- n/a

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm.